

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1421

By Johnson C

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the directors, officers, and staff of Farmers & Merchants Bank on the occasion of their 100th anniversary of service to the citizens of Stewart, Montgomery, Robertson, and Wilson Counties.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is honored to recognize those financial institutions within this State whose long histories are intertwined with the growth of their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy institution is Farmers & Merchants Bank, which is celebrating one hundred years of dedicated financial service to growing and prospering Stewart, Montgomery, Robertson, and Wilson Counties; and

WHEREAS, as of April 2, 2006, Farmers & Merchants Bank has operated successfully for one hundred years, providing ten decades worth of capital investment that has been and continues to be vital to the community's housing, educational, agricultural, and industrial expansion; and

WHEREAS, for over a century, Farmers & Merchants Bank has served as a model corporate citizen, supporting education and numerous other worthy civic and charitable causes; along the way, Farmers & Merchants Bank has not only strengthened Tennessee communities fiscally, but also made them better places to live; and

WHEREAS, Farmers & Merchants Bank has attained all of these remarkable achievements and the current milestone of longevity while maintaining its unsurpassed reputation of operating a safe, sound financial institution with the highest measure of honesty and ethics; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1906, at the turn of the twentieth century, in Bumpus Hills, Tennessee, Farmers & Merchants Bank is still serving Tennesseans as an independent community bank today; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, Farmers & Merchants Bank expanded into Dover, Tennessee, and John R. Wallace became President and Chief Executive Officer; and

WHEREAS, under John R. Wallace's astute guidance, Farmers & Merchants Bank grew rapidly while providing excellent financial, civic, and community leadership; in 1989, Farmers & Merchants Bank opened its first banking office in Montgomery County; and

WHEREAS, gaining national recognition in *Entrepreneur Magazine* and *The Wall Street Journal* as a model of community banking, Farmers & Merchants Bank soon opened an additional three offices in Clarksville, an office in Springfield, and another in Greenbrier; and

WHEREAS, William Sammy Stuard was named President and Chief Operating Officer of Farmers & Merchants Bank in 1990, succeeding Mr. Wallace; in 1999, Farmers & Merchants Bank opened its ninth banking office in Lebanon; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, William S. Stuard was named President and Chief Executive Officer of Farmers & Merchants Bank, with John Wallace continuing to serve with distinction as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Farmers & Merchants Bank's holding company; and

WHEREAS, today, Farmers & Merchants Bank's total assets exceed \$500 million; construction is underway for a new main office and new facilities have been opened in Montgomery and Wilson Counties; and

WHEREAS, the current Farmers & Merchants Bank Board Members include Don Cherry (Clarksville), Frank Dill (Dover), Dale Ellis (Bumpus Mills), Jim Myers (Springfield), President William S. Stuard (Greenbrier), Chairman John R. Wallace (Lebanon), and Bill Wyatt (Mt. Juliet); Farmers & Merchants Bank employs 175 dedicated professionals; and

WHEREAS, with eleven banking offices located in Stewart, Montgomery, Robertson, and Wilson Counties, Farmers & Merchants Bank continues to serve its customers and clients with the utmost diligence, acumen, and conviviality; and

WHEREAS, in addition to continuing to fulfill its original mission of serving farmers and the agricultural community, Farmers & Merchants Bank has grown to offer a wide range of

financial services to a diverse customer base of individuals, small businesses, local government, and industry; and

WHEREAS, Farmers & Merchants Bank has been and continues to be a fixture in the lives of the citizens of Stewart, Montgomery, Robertson, and Wilson Counties, and should be recognized for its many contributions to the past one hundred years of Tennessee's panoramic history; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the directors, officers, and staff of Farmers & Merchants Bank for the many services they provide to their community and customers, their ongoing commitment to excellence, and their one hundred years of dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join in celebrating the 100th anniversary of Farmers & Merchants Bank and extend to the directors, officers, staff, and patrons of Farmers & Merchants Bank our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.